

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a communication system adapted for communicating information in one or more time slots within a predetermined bandwidth, a method comprising: communicating information, by at least one communication unit, in selected one or more random access subslots,

wherein the one or more time slots is divided into multiple subchannels,

wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is non-overlapping in frequency, and

wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is divided into the one or more random access subslots that is non-overlapping in time.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 comprising:

transmitting information in a first one of the random access subslots by a first communication unit; and

transmitting information in a second one of the random access subslots by a second communication unit.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 comprising transmitting, by the at least one communication unit, information in a plurality of the random access subslots.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the communication unit communicates identical information in each of the plurality of the random access subslots thereby increasing the probability of the information reaching a receiver.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two of the random access subslots include two random access subslots that are adjacent in frequency.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined bandwidth is 100 kHz, ~~the~~ at least two of the random access subslots comprising a first and second random access subslot each having a 50 kHz bandwidth.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ at least two of the random access subslots include three random access subslots that are adjacent in frequency.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined bandwidth is 150 kHz, ~~the~~ at least two of the random access subslots comprising a first, second and third random access subslot each having a 50 kHz bandwidth.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 comprising, prior to the step of communicating information in a selected one or more of the random access subslots:

randomly choosing, by the at least one communication unit, one or more of the random access subslots, thereby defining the selected one or more of the random access subslots.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of communicating information comprises:

transmitting information in a first number of random access subslots by a first communication unit having a first priority; and

transmitting information in a second number of random access subslots by a second communication unit having a second priority.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the first number is greater than the second number if the first priority is higher than the second priority.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for sending information over a communication channel that has been divided into time slots, the apparatus comprising:

a transmitter operable to transmit information in a selected one or more of a plurality of random access subslots into which at least one of the time slots has been divided into multiple subchannels, wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is non-overlapping in frequency and wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is divided such that the random access subslots are non-overlapping in frequency.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

a symbol insertion element operable to format the information to fit into the selected one or more of the plurality of random access subslots, yielding formatted information which is then forwarded to the transmitter.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the transmitter randomly selects the one or more of the plurality of random access subslots to transmit in.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the transmitter uses a multiple subchannel signal to transmit the information in the one or more selected random access subslots.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the transmitter sends identical information in a plurality of random access subslots to increase the probability that the information will be received by a receiver.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the transmitter is selected from the group consisting of wireless radio units, cellular radio/telephones, wireless modems, computer modems, cable modems, satellite transmitters, satellite ground stations and fiber optic repeaters.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for obtaining information sent over a communication channel that is divided into time slots, the apparatus comprising:
a receiver operable to receive information in one or more random access subslots wherein the time slots are divided into multiple subchannels,
wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is non-overlapping in frequency,
and
wherein each subchannel of the multiple subchannels is divided into the random access subslots that is non-overlapping in time.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising a demultiplexer that deformats synchronization, pilot and data symbols from the information received in the one or more of the plurality of random access subslots.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the receiver is adapted to demodulate a multiple subchannel signal.